

9: SUPERIOR (45/45)

Essays earning a score of 9 meet all the criteria for 8 papers and in addition are especially full or apt in their analysis or demonstrate particularly impressive stylistic control.

8: SUPERIOR (43/45)

Essays earning a score of 8 offer an effective and reasonable analysis. They propose a specific and engaging thesis that addresses the entire prompt. They refer to the novel directly or indirectly and explain convincingly how the prompt and their thesis statement specifically fit the literary work. Their prose demonstrates an ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing (syntax, diction, voice, etc.) but it need not be flawless.

7: EXCELLENT (41/45)

Essays earning a score of 7 fit the description of 6 essays but employ more complete analysis or more mature prose style.

6: EXCELLENT (36/45)

Essays earning a score of 6 offer adequate analysis and respond to the entire prompt. They propose a specific and reasonable thesis. They refer to the literature directly or indirectly, and they connect examples to the thesis. A few lapses in diction or syntax may be present, but generally the prose of 6 essays conveys ideas clearly.

5: GOOD (36/45)

Essays earning a score of 5 analyze, but the development of the prompt topic or the understanding of the literature is limited. They may treat the topic superficially or develop ideas about the novel inconsistently. A few lapses in diction or syntax may appear, but usually the prose in these essays conveys the writers' ideas adequately.

4: FAIR (34/45)

Essays earning a score of 4 inadequately respond to the prompt's tasks. They may misrepresent the topic or analyze the literature inaccurately/with little understanding of how the topic applies on a specific, deeper level. The prose of a 4 essay may convey the writers' ideas adequately but may suggest immature control over organization, diction, voice, or syntax.

3: FAIR (32/45)

Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but are less perceptive about the topic and/or novel or less consistent in controlling elements of writing.

2: POOR (29/45)

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate little success in analyzing the topic or the literature. These essays may pay little attention to developing a specific thesis from the topic, merely generalize about the topic, or seriously misread something. They may simply paraphrase or comment on the prompt or novel without analyzing strategies. The prose of 2 papers often reveals consistent weaknesses in writing, such as a lack of development or organization, grammatical problems, or a lack of control.

1: POOR (27/45)

Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for the score of 2 but are especially simplistic in their discussion or weak in controlling elements of language.